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**For action**

**United Nations Children's Fund**

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**Extensions of ongoing country programmes****Note by the secretariat***Summary*

In accordance with Executive Board decision 2009/11, this note informs the Executive Board of the one-year extensions of country programmes, approved by the Executive Director, for Algeria, Argentina, Lebanon, Libya and Uganda.

The note further presents the reasons for the proposed two-year extension of the country programme for Burundi, the third consecutive one-year extension for Guinea-Bissau, the fourth one-year extension for the Syrian Arab Republic, and a two-month extension, following three one-year extensions, for Madagascar. The Executive Board is requested to approve these programme extensions.

*Draft decision**The Executive Board*

1. *Takes note* of the one-year extensions of the country programmes for Algeria, Argentina, Lebanon, Libya and Uganda, all of which were approved by the Executive Director, as indicated in table 1;
2. *Approves* the two-year extension of the country programme for Burundi, the third one-year extension for Guinea-Bissau, the fourth one-year extension for the Syrian Arab Republic, and a two-month extension, following three one-year extensions, for Madagascar, as presented in table 2.

\* Reissued for technical reasons on 2 May 2014.  
\*\* E/ICEF/2014/5.



Table 1  
One-year extensions of ongoing country programmes for approval by the Executive Director

| UNICEF-assisted country programme | Original programme period | Year approved for extension | Reasons for extension                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Algeria                           | 2012-2014                 | 2015                        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To align with the extended United Nations Development Assistance Framework(UNDAF) cycle as recommended by the United Nations country team (UNCT).</li> <li>- To allow the United Nations to align its work better with the priorities of the new national development plan (2015-2019), as well as the priorities that may be articulated following the presidential elections in April 2014.</li> </ul>                 |
| Argentina                         | 2010-2014                 | 2015                        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To align with the extended UNDAF cycle as recommended by the UNCT.</li> <li>- To align the country programmes of the United Nations system with the National Government's planning cycle, ending in December 2015.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Lebanon                           | 2010-2014                 | 2015                        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To allow the country office and partners to focus on scaling up response to the needs of Syria refugees and vulnerable host communities in Lebanon.</li> <li>- Following presidential elections in May 2014, development of the country programme document (CPD) will take into account the new leadership's national priorities.</li> <li>- The UNCT has agreed to pursue a one-year extension to the UNDAF.</li> </ul> |
| Libya                             | 2013-2014                 | 2015                        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To align to the United Nations Strategic Framework as well as the Integrated Strategic Framework, which have both been extended to end of 2015.</li> <li>- The present state of flux and insecurity in the country negatively affects opportunities for medium-term and longer-term planning.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                 |
| Uganda                            | 2010-2014                 | 2015                        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To align the next UNDAF to the Government of Uganda's planning cycle.</li> <li>- In view of adopting the One Programme consistent with standard operating procedures for countries adopting the Delivering as One approach.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                   |

Table 2

Extensions of country programmes for which the approval of the Executive Board is requested

| UNICEF-assisted country programme | Original programme period | Period proposed for extension                                                                      | Reasons for extension                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                              | Implementation or other issues                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                   |                           |                                                                                                    | In-country development                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | United Nations harmonization                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Burundi                           | 2010-2014                 | 2015-2016<br><i>two-year extension</i>                                                             | To align with the new national strategic objectives approved by the Government in its second poverty reduction strategy paper for 2012-2016.                                                                                                  | The two-year extension of the cycle would harmonize with the revised UNDAF 2012-2016.                                        | The programme extension would allow strengthening interventions in nutrition, early child development, HIV and AIDS and adolescents.                                                                                   |
| Guinea-Bissau                     | 2008-2012                 | 2015<br><i>third one-year extension</i>                                                            | As 2014 is an election year, the United Nations agencies have recommended extending the current UNDAF, so that national authorities can focus on elections and allow the development of a new UNDAF with completion of the transition period. | The extension is requested by the UNCT to allow the preparation of a new UNDAF (2016-2020) following the national elections. | UNICEF would consolidate its agenda for child rights, with a stronger equity focus, in line with the recently launched advocacy initiative aligned with <i>A Promise Renewed</i> and the post-2015 development agenda. |
| Madagascar                        | 2008-2011                 | 1 January 2015-28 February 2015<br><i>two month extension, following three one-year extensions</i> | The United Nations agencies are developing the UNDAF (2015-2019) with the newly installed government. The process will likely be completed during the third quarter of 2014.                                                                  | The extension would allow alignment with CPD submissions by UNFPA and UNDP in 2015.                                          | The extension would ensure that implementation of the country programme can continue until approval of the new CPD.                                                                                                    |
| Syrian Arab Republic              | 2007-2011                 | 2015<br><i>fourth one-year extension</i>                                                           | Development of a new programme of cooperation is constrained due to continued conflict.                                                                                                                                                       | The United Nations Syria Response Plan would complement the extension. UNDP is also pursuing a one-year extension.           | The extension would enable the continuation of support to children in the Syrian Arab Republic, with a particular focus on the most disadvantaged children.                                                            |